

Print

Community Feedback Form - Submission #7319

Date Submitted: 10/14/2020

Community Feedback Form - Please provide your feedback regarding the Riverfront Enhancement Action Plan. Feedback will be accepted until October 15, 2020.

General Comments:

The REAC Committee accomplished the monumental task of utilizing past plans to identify components that could enhance the Riverfront in the current context. Excellent work. Thank you for your service.

The charges to the Committee appropriately included "Preservation and conservation of the Riverfront". There is no mention of the existence of and need to preserve our Downtown Historic District that is on the National Register of Historic Places. This recognition will be critical for clarity and guidance in the subsequent implementation stage.

The significant number and substance of gardens planned for many of the areas would be attractive, inviting, etc. The City does not, however, currently have the staff nor budget to maintain. Neglected landscaping is less appealing than none. Budgeting for maintenance of this component is imperative.

Specific components:

The plan has many exciting components – far too many to mention so will limit my comments about those that seem to provide notable benefits without significant loss/cost, i.e., the low hanging fruit, e.g., closing Water St. adjacent to Bridge Square, canoe and kayak launches in parks, fitness pods in Lions Park, and some added amenities at Sechler.

Some components are less developed and the benefits and costs are unclear at this point, e.g., multi-use building at Babcock given the significant flooding issues for the area.

Some components, however, seem to me to be potentially detrimental to and in conflict with the goals of making the Riverfront inviting, attractive and enjoyable, e.g.,

- the drive and parallel parking on the west side of Ames Park. If used only on a limited, temporary basis, it may not create significant adverse effects; however, if expanded or used on a regular basis would create an unattractive, uninviting, negative view from the highway; obscure the view of the river and historic buildings on the east side; would seem to complicate the highway traffic flow; may create a safety issue with those parking along the high volume, fast moving highway traffic. If used on a regular basis would not be an efficient use of the valuable land. Location of the ADA parking and drop-off, definitely needed, could be modified slightly to make the NW area more contiguous.
- the proposed dog park on the north end of Lions Park. The area is a critical gateway into and out of the downtown for bikers and pedestrians; the current landscaping of plants, seating, and pergola are inviting, pleasant and present a positive image to those walking and biking - a dog park would not and would not "attract tourism". The current environment is inviting and comfortable for those bringing children to the adjacent children's playground – a dog park would not. The proposed dog park at the south end would not have such adverse effects.

First Name

Alice

Last Name

Thomas



Mitzi Baker

From: Mitzi Baker
Sent: Tuesday, October 6, 2020 11:59 AM
To: 'Betsey Buckheit'
Cc: Tracy Davis Heisler; David Bennett; Ben Martig
Subject: RE: Riverfront regional park question

A late reply, but I just wanted to say thank you.

A regional park designation will be a comprehensive effort that would be pursued after adoption of the Riverfront Enhancement Action Plan. The boundaries of an official designation application can certainly be explored further and warrant looking beyond municipal lines.

Mitzi A. Baker, AICP
Community Development Director
801 Washington Street, Northfield, MN 55057 Direct Phone: (507) 645-3005 Remote Work/Mobile: (507)649-7018
Mitzi.Baker@ci.northfield.mn.us
Web: www.ci.northfield.mn.us

-----Original Message-----

From: Betsey Buckheit <betsey.buckheit@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, September 25, 2020 10:53 AM
To: Mitzi Baker <Mitzi.Baker@ci.northfield.mn.us>
Cc: Tracy Davis Heisler <tracyheisler@gmail.com>
Subject: Riverfront regional park question

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization.

As I was flipping through the Rice County Comprehensive Plan and assorted appendixes, I was talking a look at the Cannon River Wilderness Area...has REAC considered whether the "regional" park would extend south along the river to include the parks (and trailhead) in Dundas and to the CRWA? I was concerned looking at the draft action plan that a regional park entirely within the city limits of Northfield was less likely to generate strong partnerships (the kind with money for operations) from neighboring jurisdictions than a plan for land which was more genuinely regional.

Thanks,

Betsey

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Community Feedback Form - Submission #7326

Date Submitted: 10/14/2020

Community Feedback Form - Please provide your feedback regarding the Riverfront Enhancement Action Plan. Feedback will be accepted until October 15, 2020.

There is a lot to be pleased about in the REAC. I do have some comments. Here they are:

1. Connection.

a. The Mills Towns Trail needs to go through Division Street (the path coming from Babcock Park). From there it can continue to the Carleton Arboretum. A bike trail through Division Street will attract many visitors to downtown businesses, a push towards Economic Development.

b. A bike trail through Division Street will lead to the elimination of some parking spaces. I propose to build a three-story parking lot on Washington Avenue and 5th Street. More parking spaces are needed anyway for the new restaurants that have been created in downtown, for the new apartment building constructed on Washington Avenue and 5th Street and for my proposed elimination of the parking space behind the Archer House (see below). I suggest making parking free for two hours for customers of businesses in downtown if they make some purchases (promoting economic development).

c. The current newly constructed bike paths on for instance Prairie Street and 4th Street are dangerous. Bikers are exposed to oncoming car traffic. This will lead to serious accidents. Bike paths need to be physically separate from car traffic. This can be done by raising bike paths to the level of sidewalks. The current lay-out of the new bike paths do not invite use by bikers.

2. River Access:

The lay-out of the space along the Cannon River behind the Archer House and its neighbors are prohibitive to the river access and are not a good use of the space. Most of that space is currently used for parking. I suggest eliminating most of the parking spaces there, in order to create a user-friendly space for recreation. A gradual transition in height of the space between the buildings and the river will be needed.

3. Economic Development.

See 1a and b.

First Name

Bram

Last Name

Middeldorp



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Community Feedback Form - Submission #7322

Date Submitted: 10/14/2020

Community Feedback Form - Please provide your feedback regarding the Riverfront Enhancement Action Plan. Feedback will be accepted until October 15, 2020.

We live in Nfld and enjoy the Riverpark almost everyday. We love it just the way it is. Beautiful flowers, picnic tables, play ground. Lots of families use it. I do not want to see a dog park moved there.
Why move it from where it is?
Bob and Cathy Draves

First Name

Cathy

Last Name

Draves



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Community Feedback Form - Submission #7336

Date Submitted: 10/15/2020

Community Feedback Form - Please provide your feedback regarding the Riverfront Enhancement Action Plan. Feedback will be accepted until October 15, 2020.

First, I love the idea of developing both Ames Park and Babcock park as multi-use parks for year-round activities. As much as I appreciate the community spirit and economic benefit generated by Defeat Days, it's always seemed grossly unfair that these two centrally located green spaces aren't used for anything else that Northfield's citizens can enjoy. I also think the idea of linkage between all four existing parks along the river is visionary and wonderful. The following comments are in no particular order or priority.

There is no plan for public restrooms at Ames Park. It would be nice to not have to use porta potties.

The closure of Water St where it bisects Bridge Square is a great plan. Using it for food trucks is not. If you're going to mess with Bridge Square, use the 2014 Bridge Square redesign concepts. No need to start over. We paid a lot of money for that plan and it was well worth it!

Build a pedestrian bridge between 5th St and the Post Dam to connect Bridge Square with Ames Park. I think this would be a more important bridge to build than the one connecting Sechler Park to the eastside of the river. We already have the Peggy Prowe bridge to do that. Unless the Ames Mill is discontinued as a operating plant, there is no easy way for pedestrians to get to Ames Park. No one will go there, even with tons of amenities.

Dog park adjacent to the Veteran's Memorial or in the existing pollinator garden at the north end of Riverside Park? Doesn't seem like compatible uses.

I'm not sure why we need two more ball diamonds at Sechler Park. Looks like the activities we're promoting are limited to three: biking, canoeing and baseball/softball. They're all great, but some folks don't do any of them.

I believe that vegetative screens dividing parkland from the highway aren't enough to block out the noise and visual distraction, particularly for Ames Park and Riverside Lions Park. You need to install material screens or create landscape berms for the separation to be effective.

First Name

Bergeson

Last Name

Dan



Print

Community Feedback Form - Submission #7290

Date Submitted: 10/13/2020

Community Feedback Form - Please provide your feedback regarding the Riverfront Enhancement Action Plan. Feedback will be accepted until October 15, 2020.

This is not enhancement complete change, this is a complete retooling.
No respect for historic usage.
Not realistic
Too high of a cost.
Are Parks for the people who pay for them or tourists?
Public referendum needed.

First Name

David

Last Name

Burton



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Community Feedback Form - Submission #7310

Date Submitted: 10/13/2020

Community Feedback Form - Please provide your feedback regarding the Riverfront Enhancement Action Plan. Feedback will be accepted until October 15, 2020.

The REAP draft plan provides a wonderful collaborative opportunity for the Riverfront community shareholders to coordinate their individual efforts beautifying Northfield along the Cannon River. The Northfield Garden Club(NGC) and Northfield in Bloom(NIB) are two such shareholders. Over the past 10 years NGC and NIB, with the support of the City of Northfield and Northfield Shares, have invested over \$25,000 and thousands of volunteer hours creating inviting public areas along the Cannon River. These areas include: Concrete planters along the Riverwalk, Bridge Square, Arts Corridor, and local and federal buildings; Butterfly, Dragonfly, and Bee Pollinator Gardens, Pergola, and rose garden at Lions Park; hanging baskets on the pedestrian bridge; a gazebo, metal picnic tables, casual seating; and more(i.e., bicycles by the bridge-flowers in city's hanging baskets).

As Board of NGC and fiscal agents of NIB, we feel your objective of creating an inviting corridor along the river for walking and biking is served by capitalizing on the inviting features presently in place and mentioned above including but not limited to the Pollinator Gardens, butterfly chair, wisteria-hung pergola, rose garden, and children's playground which are already in Lions Park. As mentioned these are the result of a decade of substantial investment of public dollars and countless community volunteer hours.

First Name

elizabeth

Last Name

olson



CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization.

Mitzi:

We own 301-311 S. Water Street. I have officed on the Cannon River a total of 41 years, and I was on PRAB for 11 years. I was active on the ad hoc committee formed by downtown businesses to look at replacement of the dam as a recreational structure. I attended programs at the University of Minnesota on dam removal and replacement. And I know some of the people at Barr Engineering who worked on previous plans for Malt-O-Meal.

It would have been a good idea to include on the committee riparian land owners who will be affected by any modifications to the dam. The committee is missing people who know the history of the river projects, the flooding, and the features that enabled the flooding.

The plan entirely neglects all of the serious defects in the river front improvements made by the city in 1985-86 which caused our buildings and others, including Larson's, to be susceptible to frequent flooding. The river wall is about 3' lower on the west bank than the east bank. The west river wall dips to slide under the pedestrian bridge, a design mistake. I would like to take the committee on a tour of the problems created by the city's last major improvements to water front, and explain how the white water park could most efficiently be built.

Adding a trail on the west side will not happen. We will not make the same mistake that I made in 1985 when I granted an easement to the city to affix limestone to the base of the building. The initial work was substandard, did not patch cracks in the building, so the law office basement flooded through the wall for years. It took 35 years and the threat of litigation to get the city to honor the maintenance agreement set forth in the easement and finally tuck point the wall. The city does not maintain the west river walkway. It is frequently covered by flood residue, branches and garbage that go untouched for months.

The sidewalk in the river would also endanger the staff and patrons of Froggy Bottoms River Pub, who have been hit by flying treble hooks and lures. The screens on the building have been torn by hooks, and the railings wrapped with line and lures. We will not permit the fishing nuisance to be expanded.

The Fourth Street bridge creates a significant constriction of the river flow, and in the great flood of 2010, hit our building like a giant fire hose. Building a walk way under the bridge would further constrict in the flow and increase the velocity of the water traveling under the bridge during high water events. Even if the DNR, following an environmental assessment, would allow the city to construct a free standing sidewalk in the wild and scenic river, which is long shot, we would seek an injunction to halt the project.

The proposals for Ames Park in terms of traffic and parking were considered by PRAB, when Ames Park was the preferred site for the skateboard park. The consensus was that the obstacles were too great to make Ames Park a useful, kid-friendly park.

Babcock Park is mostly in the flood plain and was built on a construction debris dump and likely a garbage dump. Structures cannot be constructed in the flood plain that will constrict the flow. Remember that all of the park benches that were located in Babcock Park in the 2010 flood went down river. It took the City of Faribault 15 years to clean up similar filled land along the Straight River. The city is better off financially not knowing what lurks beneath the surface. Please consult with the appropriate city staff in Faribault before the city decides to open Pandora's box. PRAB has identified other sites for the dog park, such as Odd Fellows woods. Relocating the rodeo grounds is not an easy task.

Removal of the Ames Mill Dam is not an option. The DNR is concerned that upriver properties, such as the River Park Mall, would sink as the hydrostatic pressure drops with the water level. Moreover, the Oregon study on dam removal concluded that the river bottom below the dam would be raised by about one-third the height of the dam, or about 3 ½ feet, as the river bottom returned to its natural muck level. This would increase the flooding of our building and every building along the river, including the Carleton West Gym. It would also greatly constrict the flow under the Fourth Street bridge, which is under considerable pressure at flood stage.

Replacing the dam with a canoe/kayak white water structure is certainly feasible and a worthy goal. It is not necessary for the city to take on the financial responsibility and substantial liability of the dam. The project would likely qualify for a Legacy Grant, and Post Brands could put up the 25% match to cover the cost of replacement and structure removal. Post should lease it to the city as a recreational structure, thereby obtaining statutory immunity from liability suits.

In summary, I have worked for years on the concept of a white-water park and in favor of it. However, the city should cure its past mistakes on the river front as part of the new plan. And the city should choose sound engineering over questionable aesthetics this go around. Good ideas are not enough.

Please forward to the other committee members.

David Hvistendahl

Attorney at Law

Hvistendahl, Moersch, Dorsey & Hahn, P.A.

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All Mail to Northfield Address

*** This is a transmission from Hvistendahl, Moersch, Dorsey & Hahn, P.A. and may contain information which is privileged, confidential, and protected by attorney-client or attorney work product privileges. If you are not the addressee, note that any disclosure, copying, distribution, or use of the contents of this message is prohibited. If you have received this transmission in error, please destroy it and notify us immediately by telephone (507)645-9358 or email lawinfo@hvmd.com.

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Community Feedback Form - Submission #7320

Date Submitted: 10/14/2020

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NO! to removing the pollinator garden and replacing it with a dog park. With the City of NOR attempting to become more green it is contradictory to move plants for insects vital to our world and replacing them with a species that is not endangered in any way. Why? Horrible idea.

First Name

JAMIE

Last Name

STANLEY



Print

Community Feedback Form - Submission #7309

Date Submitted: 10/13/2020

Community Feedback Form - Please provide your feedback regarding the Riverfront Enhancement Action Plan. Feedback will be accepted until October 15, 2020.

In my opinion as a Northfield resident and homeowner, it is very important to me that the river area be developed to be a true showpiece for the town, including development of riverfront parks, connecting river parks and trails near the river with other parks in Northfield & Dundas, and removal of the dam. The more we can do to make the river a destination where people enjoy time and linger, the better it will be for our city. It would be especially appropriate if we could name a new or existing park using Dakota language terms or place names. Thank you.

First Name

Jill

Last Name

Watson



Print

Community Feedback Form - Submission #7287

Date Submitted: 10/12/2020

Community Feedback Form - Please provide your feedback regarding the Riverfront Enhancement Action Plan. Feedback will be accepted until October 15, 2020.

I am commenting on the Riverside Lions Park plan. I am aghast at reading there will be exploration of a dog park at that location. I strongly protest that plan of action. As a citizen and member of the Northfield Garden Club, I am against any plan that disturbs the beauty of the butterfly garden at that location.

It seems to me using park space (limited already at that site) for a dog park just doesn't make sense. I realize the dog park needs to be relocated from Babcock Park, but please not at that site. It seems to me dogs need a larger space to be able to exercise. And we need to preserve the pergola & butterfly garden. A lot of citizen money and hard work has gone into that project.

First Name

Joan

Last Name

Janusz



Print

Community Feedback Form - Submission #7330

Date Submitted: 10/14/2020

Community Feedback Form - Please provide your feedback regarding the Riverfront Enhancement Action Plan. Feedback will be accepted until October 15, 2020.

One dog park is enough. Leave it where it is.

First Name

John

Last Name

Johnson



Print

Community Feedback Form - Submission #7288

Date Submitted: 10/12/2020

Community Feedback Form - Please provide your feedback regarding the Riverfront Enhancement Action Plan. Feedback will be accepted until October 15, 2020.

in desirable park land.

First Name

Lois

Last Name

Stratmoen



Print

Community Feedback Form - Submission #7261

Date Submitted: 10/8/2020

Community Feedback Form - Please provide your feedback regarding the Riverfront Enhancement Action Plan. Feedback will be accepted until October 15, 2020.

Protect and restore the natural Cannon a River features and functions. Healthy rivers are a draw to the community.
Public and private development that brings people to eat, shop, relax and recreate.possibly with more green space and less parking near the Post Office.
Bring back the Marketplace.

Now that the Jesse James Days has moved the Carnival, we need to bring about more updates and use on that side of the Cannon River. Perhaps a broader, more natural riverbank with picnic tables, a path and more use for entertainment, rather than trying to use the smaller, tighter quarters by the Post Office.

I look forward to seeing suggestions and drawings in the near future!

First Name

Lorie

Last Name

Tuma



Print

Community Feedback Form - Submission #7325

Date Submitted: 10/14/2020

Community Feedback Form - Please provide your feedback regarding the Riverfront Enhancement Action Plan. Feedback will be accepted until October 15, 2020.

Object to the River Front Plan

1. Although this would look spectacular, I seriously question we can afford it.
2. It is very involved having many facets but do the powers that be have the fortitude to see it to the end. Previous history says it does not. So it becomes an idea that is dropped to be replaced by another.
3. I seriously question placing the dog park in Riverside Park. It is convenient for a few who live downtown and have dogs but the majority who are using the dog park along the river and live in Northfield would have to drive. Is there enough parking for them? There is a dog park in Dundas that would be an excellent alternative for dog owners.
4. Already \$30,000 has been put into the art type beds that are already in Riverside Park. This will be money wasted. A plan should include what is already there.

First Name

Lullo

Last Name

Lindstrom



Print

Community Feedback Form - Submission #7311

Date Submitted: 10/13/2020

Community Feedback Form - Please provide your feedback regarding the Riverfront Enhancement Action Plan. Feedback will be accepted until October 15, 2020.

Please, please, please!! have more handicap parking near Bridge Sq. My husband last year used a walker so unless we could park close we were unable to attend activities. Now he uses a wheelchair and unless we have the space on the side of the car to put the wheelchair it is VERRY difficult to get in and out of car

We have been active participant of downtown activities so we are very disappointed that we cannot attend more often

First Name

Margie and Ted

Last Name

Vessey



Print

Community Feedback Form - Submission #7344

Date Submitted: 10/18/2020

Community Feedback Form - Please provide your feedback regarding the Riverfront Enhancement Action Plan. Feedback will be accepted until October 15, 2020.

I commend the City for taking this on and thank the committee for their great work on this plan. This and the Climate Action Plan are very exciting developments for Northfield's "brand" as a green city destination. Things that stood out on the Riverfront Enhancement Action Plan are:

- 1) Downtown Riverwalk - glad to see us prioritize maintenance and improvement of this, our most iconic existing stretch and a favorite destination for residents and visitors. I strongly favor extending this stretch with more water-facing seating areas for local businesses. Locations such as the strip mall at Water Street should be re-envisioned to help extend views of the river and avoid blank backsides of buildings.
- 2) Ames Mill Dam - please remove this dam to aid wildlife and enable broader recreational use of this downtown stretch of the river with kayaking and canoeing. I'll never forget the heartbreaking image of a duck stuck in this dam, swimming madly but unable to escape (despite desperate attempts by caring humans).
- 3) Babcock, Ames, Lions Parks- thank you so much for reimagining these underutilized areas. The Babcock "action park" idea is particularly innovative. But I hope we will prioritize Ames park since it is a gateway to the city and it would be wonderful to see a safe (despite being next to Hwy 3) and scenic area upon entry to town. Please prioritize pollinator gardens / native plantings and signage so people can stay educated on why these are important to local and regional ecosystems.
- 4) Winter Activities - we cherish the City's outdoor skating rinks as a much-needed spark of joy amidst the long Minnesota winters. Please continue to maintain these local neighborhood highlights, but I also love the idea of larger, more community-oriented winter activities like the skate track pictured in this report. I spent time as a child at the Roseville Oval which gave us something to look forward to every winter.

First Name

Martha

Last Name

Larson



Print

Community Feedback Form - Submission #7315

Date Submitted: 10/14/2020

Community Feedback Form - Please provide your feedback regarding the Riverfront Enhancement Action Plan. Feedback will be accepted until October 15, 2020.

Hello - I applaud the city of Northfield and the task force for studying the Cannon River in detail. I enjoyed paging through the draft action plan. I have a few comments:

1) I support moving toward removing the dam in downtown Northfield. The dam is aging (and may fail), the reservoir behind the dam is filling up - and extending upstream, the dam restricts fish movement on the river (and has effects on fresh-water mussels and river ecology more generally, and, for canoeists and kayakers, the dam requires a lengthy portage.

2) Having said that, I don't support the idea of re-engineering the river through downtown to construct something for white-water sports. In essence, this is replacing one human-made impediment to river flow (the dam) with another (an artificially constructed channel). I think the goal should be to restore the river through Northfield to something of its pre-dam state. Such a plan would allow through-canoeing and kayaking all the way from Faribault to Lake Byllesby, something that will be quite wonderful. Northfield will be ideally suited at about midway to benefit economically from canoeists seeking lunch, a break, etc.

3) "Restoring the river to its pre-dam state" will necessitate careful planning to understand how the river will incise through the sediment trapped behind the dam, how (and where) vegetation will re-establish itself in riparian zones upstream of the dam and how that (formerly) trapped sediment will redistribute itself downstream. Ecosystems that have established themselves in response to the dam's hydrologic effects will inevitably be changed. These include the still-water system above the dam and the high-energy erosional system directly below the dam (which is at present a hot spot for fresh-water mussel diversity).

Fortunately, there are several recent cases of dam removal on which to draw for guidance, and I think the task force has heard about some of them through DNR presentations. A key point is the need to involve property owners adjacent to the current reservoir and property owners of riparian lands downstream of the dam in the planning, notably Carleton College.

4) It was unclear to me from skimming through the plan whether or not any formal conversations had happened between the task force and representatives of Carleton. I'm concerned because one of the maps in the plan shows potential routes for the Milltowns Trail through the Carleton Arb that are neither optimal nor approved.

First Name

Mary

Last Name

Savina



Print

Community Feedback Form - Submission #7301

Date Submitted: 10/13/2020

Community Feedback Form - Please provide your feedback regarding the Riverfront Enhancement Action Plan. Feedback will be accepted until October 15, 2020.

This is very exciting and holistic plan regarding Northfield and the River. The work is greatly appreciated. Some key comments:

Ames Park development requires that the riverwalk connection be established first, otherwise it is an urban island bounded by Hwy 3, the River, and Ames Mill. This is a critical component prior to its investment — regardless of vehicular drop-off area, etc.

Parking areas along river behind downtown buildings should be an expansion of the river frontage and preference for pedestrian / gathering uses over vehicles preferred.

First Name

Nathan

Last Name

Knutson



Print

Community Feedback Form - Submission #7313

Date Submitted: 10/13/2020

Community Feedback Form - Please provide your feedback regarding the Riverfront Enhancement Action Plan. Feedback will be accepted until October 15, 2020.

In my option, removing the raised garden beds and trellising for a dog park is a negative option. The dogs and their families have been enjoying their current location. Please do not remove our community's work to create these beautiful gardens.

First Name

Pamela

Last Name

Roberts



Print

Community Feedback Form - Submission #7237

Date Submitted: 10/5/2020

Community Feedback Form - Please provide your feedback regarding the Riverfront Enhancement Action Plan. Feedback will be accepted until October 15, 2020.

Overall, I appreciate all the time and effort that has gone into contemplating the riverfront enhancement for the city of Northfield. The work nicely illustrates 5 different planning/use zones, and each of those areas make sense with the designation received. It would have been nice to hear a bit more about the vision for each of those zones, especially those not within the zones containing the 4 riverfront park areas.

The initial concepts, especially for Ames Park and Lions/Riverside, show promise as does the reconfiguration of Sechler to engage a ballfield focus to its current suite of offerings. The park amenities, especially shelters/restrooms are in definite need of upgrades and it is good to see them treated this way. In addition, I like that Riverside is noted as a neighborhood park; however, I think the Ames park was missed with respect to that same context - as the historic downtown is not simply business enterprise but mixed use, especially with a new multiunit apartment/condo complex currently under construction as is a mixed retail/residence across from the armory building. Ames is a combination neighborhood/gateway park to the historic downtown. In addition, the dam poses a significant issue to on-water and off-water uses of the river in this area. To promote good river connectivity, it should be removed; however, I recognize there is some nostalgia associated with its existence. I think the same kind of engagement can happen without the dam, and perhaps generate a more appealing way for folks with a range of interests to use and enjoy the river, including making this reach navigable by watercrafts of various sorts.

Throughout the plans, I appreciate the use of native vegetation, vegetative visual barriers to help separate heavy highway traffic from the parklands, and considering multiple uses and design elements to assist with flood and water management. While at this conceptual level, I don't expect to see more details; however, I would have liked to see the FEMA 100 yr and 500 yr floodplain lines overlaid on some of the concepts to illustrate how they respond to the flood pressures.

As a resident in the urban north, I know that my fellow residents have been working for many years to establish river access and some planning to this long neglected area of the city riverfront. The fact that this area received no mention concerns me, especially with the addition of a major hotel to this zone as well as its immediate connectivity to the urban/downtown zone.

Thank you for a plan that enables some different vision, and one that puts forward the need for private/public partnerships to make the future steps happen. Connectivity - via waterways and multiuse pathways - has been a hallmark of other locations I have lived, and I look forward to enjoying some of this vision in the future.

First Name

Paul

Last Name

Jackson



Mitzi Baker

From: Philip Spensley <pspensley@earthlink.net>
Sent: Friday, October 16, 2020 5:23 PM
To: Mitzi Baker
Subject: Re: River enhancement plan feedback

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization.

Thank you, Mitzi, for your email and your kind words.

I neglected to mention one other thing. I hope you can still accept it here. It concerns the placement of the bandstand in Babcock Park so close to the highway (Hwy 3) and in proximation to the road bridge there.

I think audiences and performers will find that traffic noise will create considerable problems for them. Having been involved with productions of plays and music in Central Park in a much more serene environment (located right in the middle of the park), a single truck or a motor cycle passing the park, the equivalent of half a block's distance away, or even a car with a louder rumble than is the norm, would greatly interfere with the audience's ability to hear what was being said or played, not to mention distracting and diverting their attention. That the proposed bandstand in Babcock Park will also be located along side the highway not far from a traffic light so that passing traffic, after a stop, will still be in acceleration mode when they get to the bandstand will further increase the traffic engine noise. Not all music performance will be electronically amplified I am sure (as rock bands are for example) ...and classical music, even when played by a full orchestra, has its very quiet moments.

I urge the committee to reconsider the placement of the bandstand, and to move it much further away from the road. Tree screening alongside the highway will not, I think, be enough to mitigate well enough the traffic noise, and even if it might do so to some degree, there will be no trees on the bridge.

Undoubtedly electrically powered vehicles will eventually be in greater vogue, and so traffic engine noise will be less, but that will take some time to come into effect.

With respect,

Philip Spensley

> On Oct 16, 2020, at 4:45 PM, Mitzi Baker <Mitzi.Baker@ci.northfield.mn.us> wrote:

>

> Thank you Philip for your thoughtful remarks. They will be shared with the consultant team and Committee.

> Best,

>

>

> Mitzi A. Baker, AICP

> Community Development Director

> 801 Washington Street, Northfield, MN 55057 Direct Phone: (507)

> 645-3005 Remote Work/Mobile: (507)649-7018

> Mitzi.Baker@ci.northfield.mn.us

> Web: www.ci.northfield.mn.us

>

> -----Original Message-----

> From: Philip Spensley <pspensley@earthlink.net>
> Sent: Thursday, October 15, 2020 5:34 PM
> To: Mitzi Baker <Mitzi.Baker@ci.northfield.mn.us>
> Cc: Philip Spensley <pspensley@me.com>
> Subject: River enhancement plan feedback

>
> CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization.

>
> Hello Mitzi,

>
> Thanks for your offer to send my thoughts via email. I am doing so because for one reason the feedback form would not let me do so. Here are my comments:

>
> Thank you for your visionary and exciting concept for this development of the river, linking the parks along it, providing links with area and community trails, while considering recreational, tourist, economic, aesthetic and ecological benefits and concerns.

>
> Basically, the health the river is an ecological one. I am pleased to see how proposals in this plan overlap proposals in Northfield's Climate Action Plan with respect to such environmental issues as water runoff, tree plantings, native plantings and pollinator gardens, among other things. I am delighted also to see how it serves and incorporates proposals and initiatives from the Arts and Culture Commission and that it incorporates some of the ideas generated a decade ago by the Round Table. You have taken much into consideration that aligns with other boards and commissions and community groups and that well serves the City's Strategic Plan. Together, the Riverfront Development Plan, the Arts Plan and the Climate Action Plan all contribute holistically and collectively to Northfield's environmental and economic sustainability, its citizens' health and well-being, and its quality of life. Together, I trust, these plans will collectively serve to help shape and provide focus for broader thinking from others, including the next phase of Northfield's Comprehensive Plan, as well as giving valuable guidance and direction to the considerations of the Economic Development Authority.

>
> Praise aside, I have some specific thoughts and some concerns regarding the Post Dam at Bridge Square that I would like to share with the committee. I understand there are differing opinions as to whether the dam is a benefit or a problem, whether it should be demolished, or restructured, or kept intact. I personally favor a mix of the latter two, but whatever happens I want to state strongly the fact, supported by science, that falling water creates negative ions which in turn create positive feelings, serenity, and enhanced energy. And the greater the water fall the greater the effect, and the better. Everyone recognizes that Bridge Square is a special place. Everyone feels good when they go there. It anchors the downtown in so many more ways than simply being a locale...and one of them is from the negative ions that permeate it and the downtown from the dam. If the dam is to be refigured, can those negative ions be generated in other ways to the same degree? They must. If the decision is to create white water rapids, make them vigorous enough to both provide a good experience for the kayaker and for Bridge Square. Perhaps keeping the dam with a lock to allow boats to bypass it up and down the river is a possibility. In conditions of potential flood, the locks could be opened at both ends to allow for water to pass through unheeded to lessen the threat. If the dam is kept, how can the kayaker and the canoer still be served? No doubt such thoughts, and other ones, have already been discussed and yet others will be introduced. Has the possibility of using that dam site for electricity generation for the downtown been considered with the introduction of one or two small turbines? They are used in many rivers, some coastal. using the flow of tides, some in small rivers such as ours. Can such turbines be incorporated with other ideas? It's a consideration. As well as creating valuable negative ions, however, I see a further potential benefit to keeping the dam in place. I have been told that the dam prevents fish from moving upstream and downstream past it, thus inhibiting their natural travel (though having watched salmon I question it may be doing so absolutely, and I doubt it prevents them from moving downstream). But perhaps what the dam potentially does do is mitigate and in some cases prevent the passing of invasive species upstream from the Mississippi into the reaches of the greater Cannon River Watershed. But perhaps the dam at Lake Billesby already does that and so it is a non issue. In which case, don't worry about that and concentrate on the negative ions ...and the fishing. Will greater access to the river for anglers be possible? I do not

see that specifically proposed. And what will provide the "attractions" for the fish if the dam is not there to provide a feeding ground (or grounds) for them, as obviously it currently does, while providing great good sport and pleasure for anglers.

>

> Best wishes for the fulfillment of the plan in its overall conception and design...parks, trails, facilities, and purposes. It is fantastic. It will take time to fulfill and I may not get to see its completion to be able to enjoy it fully given my age, but the hope that it will be completed and will be there for generations to come for the benefit of all who use it and especially for the many benefits it will provide for our community gives me great pleasure to reflect upon. Well done.

Thank you.

>

> Philip Spensley

Print

Community Feedback Form - Submission #7286

Date Submitted: 10/12/2020

Community Feedback Form - Please provide your feedback regarding the Riverfront Enhancement Action Plan. Feedback will be accepted until October 15, 2020.

First of all, the email proposal and print are too small to read!
Second, if the Riverfront by the pergola & farmers market is to be turned into a dog park, I am opposed to that. This is where the butterfly, dragonfly, etc. gardens are. Sorry, I can't remember the name of that park. Honestly, what's wrong with Memorial Park where the dogs can play now? The park by the pergola is quite small and more lovely for walking and sitting than having dogs running about often unleashed. The garden club has invested years of service in this area - please keep it as it is!

First Name

Richard

Last Name

Collman



Mitzi Baker

From: Mitzi Baker
Sent: Wednesday, October 14, 2020 4:38 PM
To: 'Lois Stratmoen'
Subject: RE: Riverfront enhancement plan

Thank you for sharing your comments, they will be shared with others as the process moves forward.

Mitzi A. Baker, AICP
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Mitzi.Baker@ci.northfield.mn.us
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From: Lois Stratmoen <lstratmoen@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, October 13, 2020 8:29 PM
To: Mitzi Baker <Mitzi.Baker@ci.northfield.mn.us>
Subject: Riverfront enhancement plan

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization.

I will be very disappoint -- no angry -- if the butterfly and other gardens are removed and replaced with a dog park. What a poor use of space that would be. The park area there now is attractive and so easily accessible for mothers and children for play and for an open area. It is also attractive for visitors who walk the river walk.
Lois Stratmoen

Print

Community Feedback Form - Submission #7225

Date Submitted: 10/2/2020

Community Feedback Form - Please provide your feedback regarding the Riverfront Enhancement Action Plan. Feedback will be accepted until October 15, 2020.

i think it's a good idea to get the community together more.

First Name

Sammy

Last Name

Noreen



Print

Community Feedback Form - Submission #7329

Date Submitted: 10/14/2020

Community Feedback Form - Please provide your feedback regarding the Riverfront Enhancement Action Plan. Feedback will be accepted until October 15, 2020.

Please resurface the pickle ball courts.

Please don't move the dog park. With the farmer's market, playground, picnics, kayaks, and pickle ball players etc. there is a lot of park traffic already. If the dog park must be moved, move it down by the war memorial so that parking can be arranged there.

First Name

Tim

Last Name

Gamble

